Dear Parents and Carers,

The following information is provided to assist you in understanding some of the key facts about Catholic schools in Australia and the key issues facing Catholic education in the lead up to the Federal election.

Key facts about Catholic schools in Australia

• More than 765,000 students attend 1,731 Catholic schools across Australia.
• With 91,000 staff in those schools, Catholic education is a significant Australian employer.
• Catholic schools receive government funding, which covers 65 per cent of the cost of schooling in the ACT. Fees and private income cover the rest.
• Catholic schools are welcoming and inclusive communities, with the number of students with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students doubling over the past decade.
• Almost one-third of students in Catholic schools are non-Catholic.

Key issues for Catholic schools

1. Respect for religious freedom in Catholic schools.
   Catholic schools, respecting the rights and freedoms of parents and carers to choose schooling for their children in the Catholic tradition, should continue to be free to form and instruct students in the Catholic faith and celebrate the faith as an integral and inseparable activity of the Catholic school.

2. Government funding that keeps pace with school costs.
   Government policy to increase school funding at the rate of CPI from 2018 could see funding increases fail to keep pace with school costs. That could lead to even larger fee increases, affect school quality or lead to school closures.

3. Government funding that is needs-based.
   School funding should reflect students’ learning needs, with greater educational need attracting additional funding. Catholic schools’ commitment to meeting the learning needs of all students requires appropriate government funding.

4. Government funding to support the construction of new Catholic schools.
   More than 70 new Catholic schools are planned in the next five years to meet growing demand for school places. Without additional capital funding, these schools may not be built. Government funding is also needed to maintain and upgrade existing Catholic schools.

5. Respect for the autonomy of Catholic schools.
   The ability of Catholic schools and systems to meet the local needs of a school community is one of their strengths. Government funding arrangements should respect the identity, integrity and autonomy of Catholic school and education systems.

May you always be aware of the mercy of God’s love,

Erin Taylor
Principal (Acting)
From the Principal…….

**PRAYERS:** Please keep Kate and Garreth Wigg and families in your prayers following the death of Kate's Grandfather last week. We also pray for Brayden, Grace, Kobi and the Verran family, following the death of their Grandfather. Please keep Dejan Celeski (3 Gold) in our prayers.

**FIRST EUCHARIST:** First Eucharist will be celebrated in our Parish on Saturday, 25th & Sunday 26th June. Please pray for the children of our Parish as they prepare to receive the Eucharist for the first time. Lord Jesus, Bless the children preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time. May that first time be the initial step towards a life-long love of the Eucharist, give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow in full discipleship.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to the following children who competed in the NSW Country State Championships for Basketball last week: Ellie and Talia DaSilva, Sienna and Alyssa Harajli, Giselle Arona, Rhiannon O’Brien

**MESSAGE FROM CATHOLIC EDUCATION:** It is the policy of the Catholic Education Office to provide a process for the review of all Principals’ performance towards the end of each contract period. Ms Claire Frazer, St Gregory’s Primary School, Queanbeyan will participate in this review process during July this year. Your assistance with the community consultation part of this process would be appreciated by completing a short survey by this [FRIDAY 24 June 2016](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8GQYJK7). Please click on the following link to complete the survey. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8GQYJK7

**SEMESTER ONE REPORTS:** On Wednesday, 22 June. Semester Reports will be sent home. This is an opportunity to celebrate your child’s achievements as well as offer some advice to assist in further growth and improvement.

**OPTIONAL PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS:** Accompanying the school report will be a PTO (Parent Teacher Online) letter outlining the process for booking a Parent Teacher interview. Access to this online tool will be live from Thursday, 23 June. Located on the back of the School Report letter you will find your own login pin to book on-line. Please note, for parents needing to book separate appointment times, individual passcodes have been provided (if necessary). Students are welcome to attend these interviews if parents feel that would be beneficial. There is some wisdom particularly in the upper grades to have the students involved in discussions about their learning. Teachers are generally available in the mornings from 8:15am and after school till 5:00pm provided they do not have a duty or are not involved in meetings.

**ADJUNCT PROFESSOR KAYE LOWE: Come along!** It’s not too late to RSVP and come along to the parent workshop **TONIGHT from 6.30pm-7.30pm** in the MacQuoid Street Library. The workshop is aimed at sharing effective literacy strategies for reading and writing. It is a great opportunity for Parents to engage in current literacy practices. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to: erin.taylor@cg.catholic.edu.au or leave a message with Karen or Emma at the Lowe or MacQuoid Street office.

**PARVO VIRUS:** There has been a reported case of Parvo virus in the school. Parvovirus B19 infection is a mild rash illness that occurs most commonly in children. The ill child typically has a “slapped-cheek” rash on the face and a lacy red rash on the trunk and limbs. The child is not very ill, and the rash resolves in 7 to 10 days. More information can be find on the link… [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/parvovirus-B19-and-(fifth-disease).aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/parvovirus-B19-and-(fifth-disease).aspx)
PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received a Principal’s Award at the last whole school assembly.

K Blue  Elijah Brown
K Gold  Aprika Joshi
K Red  Sophie McIntyre
K White  Chelsea Rogers
1 Blue  Tara Willis
1 Gold  Seth Marsden
1 Red  Orlando Blazeki
1 White  Tristan Stewart
2 Blue  Anthony Oldfield
2 Gold  Connor Oldfield
2 Red  Charli Stokes-Oldfield
2 White  Hamish Canestralli
3 Blue  Yashmeen Dandiwal
3 Red  Vince Madriaga
3 White  Lachlan Mallia
4 Gold  Dylan DeJong
4 Red  Elizabeth Gruber
4 White  Sophia Watson
5 Blue  Eleanor MacDonald-Smith
5 Red  Jay Duncan
5 White  Olivia Worthington
6 Blue  Grace Graham
6 Gold  Toby Goodyer
6 White  Jack Murphy
6 White  Ryan Weatherby
Gold Bands  Sarah Taloni
Sienna Hamlin
Alexis Lyons
Naomi McInnes
Christopher Hodges
Rory Forbes

KAYE LOWE TONIGHT

Adjunct Professor Kaye Lowe will be conducting a parent workshop on Tuesday 21st June 6:30 -7:30 pm in the MacQuoid Street Library.

The workshop will have practical and effective suggestions for assisting children with reading. Please check out the website. http://www.read4success.com.au
For more information contact the school: office.stgregs@cg.catholic.edu.au

LIBRARY NEWS

Premiers Reading Challenge 2016

remier’s Reading Challenge 2016

We currently have 280 students enrolled with 86 students finished and another 133 completing online records. Congratulations to the following students who completed their challenge this week Samuel Adkins 4W, Poppy Howell 4W, William Ireland 4G, Riley Minchin 4W, Peter Murray 4W, Dominic Trinidad 4G, Tilly Upton 4W and Deion Trinidad 6B. Any queries can be directed to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au but please ensure you include your child’s name and class in your email.

Children’s Writing Competition

Children’s Writing Competition: Make Your Own Story Book.

Do you love story books? Have you ever wanted to create your own? Now is your chance!

The ACT Branch of the Children’s Book Council of Australia is proudly presenting the Make Your Own Story Book Competition. Write and illustrate your own picture or chapter book for the chance to meet one of Australia’s best loved authors, Jackie French, and win great prizes too! Entry is open for all local students from Year 1 - Year 8. See the website http://cbcaact.org.au/myosb for more details and get ready to be our next Andy Griffiths or Alison Lester.

The Children’s Book Council of Australia ACT Branch

CANTEEN NEWS

Helper at Lowe Street this week are:
Thursday 23 June  Michelle Welch
Friday 24 June  June Lawrence

Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if just for an hour or more. Please contact Rosemarie on 6297 2221. Thank you.
NAIDOC MASS
For the children that were invited to attend the NAIDOC Mass and who have not sent back their RSVP, can you please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you
Lauren Macdonald

FIRST EUCHARIST
First Eucharist Masses
St Raphael's Church
Saturday 25th June 5:30pm
Sunday 26th June 9am
Sunday 26th June 11am

PARISH NEWS
THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
COME HOLY SPIRIT FILL THE HEARTS OF THE FAITHFUL
CONFIRMATION preparation is about to begin in our Parish here at St Gregory’s. I would like to extend an INVITATION to any people who are Baptised Catholics but for whatever reason have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation, for example Communion and/or Confirmation, if you are interested please contact me by Tuesday 28 June at the parish, on 6299 4611.

I have a few young adults who have expressed an interest so I am very happy to run an adult preparation programme. Confirmation is the weekend of 10 and 11 September 2016.

Thanks Fr Troy

DATES TO REMEMBER
Registration 1 - 27 June 2016
Parent Information Night Thursday 28 June
7pm St Greg’s Hall
Commitment Masses Saturday 30 July
5:30pm St Raphael’s
Sunday 31 July
9am St Raphael’s
Saturday 6 August
5:30pm St Raphael’s
Sunday 7 August
9am St Raphael’s
Retreat Day Friday 9 September
Celebration of Sacrament Sat. 10 September
5:30 St Raphael’s
(FULL)
Sun. 11 September
9am & 11am
St Raphael’s

Any further enquiries please contact the Parish Office 6299 4611.

Thank you
Rita Pelle,
Sacramental Officer St Gregory’s Parish

PARISH NEWS
St Gregory’s Parish will be running the ALPHA course starting 22 June 2016. The ALPHA course is a CD based course exploring your individual faith. The course comprises of ten, 20 minute sessions presented by Rev Nicky Gumbel from Holy Trinity Brompton in London. Each session will involve a welcome, CD Presentation and small group discussion for 20 minutes.

Who can attend? ANYONE
How long is each session 1 hour
Do you have to attend all sessions? No only the ones you are interested in!
Is there a cost? Gold coin for tea, coffee and muffin

Sessions - 7:30pm Parish Centre, St Greg’s Primary MacQuoid Street.

Sessions are:
22 June Christianity, Boring, Untrue, & Irrelevant?
29 June Who is Jesus?
6 July Why did Jesus die?

For further information please contact the parish office 6299 4611.
QUEANBEYAN SHOW 2016

Although this year’s Queanbeyan Show isn’t on until 12th – 13th November 2016, now is the time to start thinking about the wonderful things that you can enter into the various categories. Full details can be found on their website:

www.queanbeyanshow.com.au

which will soon be updated for this year’s events.

Enquiries can be also be emailed to:
secretary@queanbeyanshow.com.au

So…let’s start creating, designing, drawing, painting, writing, planting, Lego building, sewing and knitting! There’s only 5 months to go!!

Susan Camm

NORTHERN MISSION

Incorporating Queanbeyan, Michelago, Bungendore and Braidwood Parishes

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PARISH OFFICE DETAILS:

Open: 9am - 3:30pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
(Closed for lunch 12:00pm – 1:00pm and all day Monday & Wednesdays)
Address: 47 Lowe St, Queanbeyan
Postal: PO Box 175 Queanbeyan 2620
Phone: 6299 4611
Email: queanbeyan@cg.org.au
Web: www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com

Lost Property:

There is still a large number of items in the lost property at MacQuoid Street and Lowe Street.

If you are missing any school uniform items please come and check. On a regular basis we do check for items with names which is then returned to the children, but there is a lot without names. Anything unclaimed at the end of term will be donated to the Cloting Pool.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday                  | CLOSED        |
Tuesday                 | 9 am - 3:30pm |
Wednesday               | CLOSED        |
Thursday                | 9 am - 3:30pm |
Friday                  | 9 am - 3:30pm |